

the studio to record an album, "Regalo de Alma," that is due for release Aug. 5 on Sony Discos. That same month, her 2002 album, "La Negra Tiene Tumbao," won the Grammy Award for best salsa album. In March, the Telemundo network broadcast a live concert tribute to Ms. Cruz, in which she performed alongside other Latin stars, including Marc Anthony, to raise money for the Celia Cruz Foundation for Hispanic students to study music. It will give its first five grants on her birthday this year, Oct. 21.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM  
HARTNEY**

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of a dedicated community member in my state, Tom Hartney of Durango, Colorado. Tom passed away recently at the age of 72 and as his family mourns their loss, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to his life and accomplishments here today.

Tom grew up in the Midwest, graduating from Northwestern University in Illinois. He married his wife Shelly in 1956 and they began their life together in Michigan. The couple eventually moved to Durango in 1979 and fell in love with their new surroundings. Tom became involved in the Durango Community, beginning with his membership in the local Rotary Club. He spent his time raising and contributing money to the college scholarship fund, and serving as the club historian. When not helping the Rotary Club, Tom helped the community youth by coaching in the Babe Ruth Baseball League. Tom provided his players with a role model, as a coach they could look up to and admire.

One of Tom's greatest contributions was the time he spent serving on the Durango School Board. Tom served there for five years, spending one year as its President. Even after his retirement, Tom stayed involved with the school system, spending time consulting and advising the new members and committees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Tom Hartney. Tom was a solid contributor to his community and his nation, and I am grateful for his service. My thoughts and prayers go out to Tom's family and friends during their time of loss.

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2004**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2003*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2673:

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my concern about proposed cuts to

conservation, energy, rural development and research program funding in this year's Agriculture Appropriations Bill. I realize this year has been especially difficult in light of the need for funding cuts. However, there are a number of programs that I feel are critical, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Security Program, the Wetland Reserve Program, and the Renewable Energy Systems, Energy Efficiency Grants and Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Programs.

Passage of the 2002 Farm Bill was a bipartisan victory for conservation, renewable energy and rural America. It contained landmark conservation, renewable energy, research, and rural development programs. The bill authorized nearly \$3 billion for USDA conservation programs in FY 2004, including for funding for working lands incentives programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Conservation Security Program. However, the FY 2004 Agriculture Appropriations Bill would reduce these critical programs.

By providing funding for working lands programs like EQIP and CSP in the 2002 Farm Bill, Congress dramatically increased funds to help farmers manage working lands to produce food, while also enhancing water quality and wildlife habitat. EQIP shares the cost of a broad range of land management practices that help the environment, includes more efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides, and promotes innovative technologies for manure management. CSP is a new program that will link conservation payments to gradually increasing levels of performance. Overall, these programs will provide farmers the tools and incentives they need to meet major environmental challenges.

In addition, farmers have offered to restore more than 600,000 acres of lost wetlands by enrolling farmland into the Wetlands Reserve Program and restoring them. The Agriculture Appropriations Bill proposes to cut, rather than increase, funding for the Wetlands Reserve Program, which provides perpetual easements on farmland land and wetland restoration funds, this significantly reducing the benefits of the program.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program [(Sec. 9006) of the Energy Title] and the Value-Added Agricultural Market Product Development Grants Program [(Sec. 6401) of the Rural Development Title] were designed to spur the growth of renewable energy within the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, the House Appropriations Agriculture bill eliminates mandatory spending for both programs.

Congress provided \$23 million a year in mandatory funds under section 9006 of the Farm Bill to provide grants, loans, and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses for the development of renewable energy projects and energy efficiency improvements. Sec. 9006 will help farmers save money by lowering their energy costs through efficiency improvements, and by enabling them to produce some of their own on-farm power. It also provides farmers the seed money needed to develop and market their renewable energy resources. This funding was embraced by the administration and both houses of Congress. However, today's bill only provides only \$3 million in discretionary funding for section 9006.

The Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant program, under Sec.

6401 of the Farm Bill, provided \$40 million a year in mandatory funding. The program was created to spur development of new uses for agricultural products, and the 2002 Farm Bill amended the program to include renewable energy. [The House Agriculture Appropriations Bill only provides \$13 million in discretionary funding for Rural Cooperative Development Grants. Of this amount \$4,000,000 is for value-added market development grants.]

Empowering America's farmers to produce clean, renewable energy is critical if we ever hope to achieve energy independence. By integrating renewable energy development initiatives throughout the Farm Bill, America's farmers can receive the support they need to develop their renewable energy resources, including bioenergy, wind, solar, and geothermal.

The environmental and geopolitical risks associated with continued dependence on foreign oil are simply unsustainable. Dependence on fossil fuels has affected public health and our environment and unnecessarily diverted American dollars abroad when they could be kept at home. Long term, the United States must develop realistic alternatives to dependence on fossil fuels and these funds will enable us to begin sooner rather than later. American farmers are fully capable of and want to become part of a long-term solution to ending this harmful dependence. And, they can do so knowing that renewable energy production represents new income streams for their farms.

Protecting funding for projects like those listed above is crucial because they represent a first step toward enlisting the help of the agricultural sector in a quest toward energy independence. I hope that as we complete the FY 2004 appropriations process we can enhance the funding for these innovative programs.

**A TRIBUTE TO CELIA CRUZ**

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2003*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, the Latin music world mourns the passing of "The Queen of Salsa", "La Reina de la Salsa", Celia Cruz, who passed away 43 years and one day after she left her homeland, Cuba, for the United States. I am honored to recall how Celia Cruz, the world-renowned performer, and I crossed paths at different moments. She sang at my first victory party, celebrating my win as the first Cuban-American woman to win a seat in Congress in a special election in 1989. She accompanied me to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, when I went to visit the Cuban rafters detained on our base, to see for myself their living conditions and physical well-being. I will never forget how she kissed the ground when our plane landed and how she sang that day to the Cubans held there with the passion and love of a true native who has been presented the chance of standing on her native soil, even though poignantly, it was on our base, after so many years. She was also a friend to the Republican Party, performing at the 2000 Republican convention in Philadelphia, where President George W. Bush accepted the nomination to the presidency.